



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles  
Commissioner Melody A. Currey  
Transportation Committee Public Hearing  
February 22, 2012***

**H.B. No. 5168 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DOCUMENTATION OF  
DEALER SAFETY INSPECTIONS (Bill requested by the Department)**

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, Senator Boucher,  
Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee.

I am pleased to be here today to testify in support of HB 5168, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DOCUMENTATION OF DEALER SAFETY INSPECTIONS. This legislation requires a motor vehicle dealer, prior to selling a used motor vehicle, to complete a form indicating that it has inspected the motor vehicle for compliance with certain statutory minimum requirements. In nearly all cases, failure to meet these requirements, which are set forth in sections 14-80 through 14-106d, would prohibit a vehicle from being registered or operated on the road. Among the statutory requirements are working brakes and lights, including headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, reflectors and a plate illumination lamp. Every vehicle must also have a horn, rear view mirror, fenders or wheel protectors, a windshield tinted within acceptable standards, windshield wipers, safe tires, and a functioning odometer, muffler and exhaust system.

Under this legislation, a dealer's examination of these basic items would be reflected on a DMV form, which would standardize the procedure for conducting these pre-sale inspections. In a case where one of these basic items is defective and the car would not otherwise be covered under a warranty due to the sales price, the dealer would have the option of describing the defective item, and indicating that the vehicle is being sold with the particular defect noted.

This legislation protects consumers from buying vehicles that are patently unsafe for the road and it protects dealers in that they have documentation showing that a safety review was conducted. The DMV receives frequent complaints in its Consumer Complaint Unit from individuals who have purchased a vehicle with defective brakes or tires. In many instances the dealer is unable to prove that it has conducted a pre-sale inspection. This will provide documentation of the process.

Thank you for considering this legislation and I would be glad to try to answer any questions.